

[From the Knoxville News Sentinel]

"DEALER OF THE YEAR"; MAGAZINE AWARDS
KNOX FAMILY FIRM SCRUGGS INC.

(By Jerry Dean)

Scruggs Inc., a 66-year-old Knoxville company which sells and services food service equipment, has come far since Earnest Carleton Scruggs of Sweetwater first bought such equipment on New York's Bowery for resale in Knoxville in 1932.

Named Foodservice Equipment & Supplies magazine's 1998 "Dealer of the Year" in May, Scruggs was featured in the magazine's 50th anniversary issue, which noted its "record of integrity, innovation and leadership."

"Exemplary customer service expresses the ruling philosophy of this company," said Publisher Sandra A. Smith.

Scruggs Inc., now with 55 employees, operates a 60,000-square-foot warehouse and an 18,000-square-foot showroom at 3011 Industrial Parkway East, northwest of Western and Texas Avenues, east of Interstate 75 in Knoxville.

Lee E. and Andrew D. Scruggs, brothers and latest of three generations to run the business, said 50 years by coincidence is how long their father, James Scruggs, has been associated with Scruggs Inc. Though retired, he remains a design consultant for its customers, including restaurants, soda fountains and grocers in East Tennessee.

"There's nothing magical about the firm's success," Lee Scruggs said. "We merely try to do what we say we'll do. And to look after our customers well."

James Scruggs began the business in 1948 and was joined in 1950 by elder brother E.C. Jr. and younger brother, Pat. James began by drawing floor plans, but after his elder brother's death, James learned sales and administration to assume leadership. In 1961, he helped found Equipment Distributors Inc., a buyers' group that helps all 22 of its area dealer-members prosper.

Scruggs Inc., with \$15 million in 1997 sales, maintains a tidy division of labors between brothers Lee, who administers the company, and Andrew, who directs sales. Lee, a UT graduate and former youth minister, joined Scruggs in 1980 as warehouse manager. Andrew, a Texas Christian University graduate, joined the firm in 1979 after working for a restaurant chain. Also working closely with the Scruggses are key employees like Ed Poore, the comptroller.

The firm opened a Tri-Cities sales office-showroom in April and expects it to help boost sales to \$25 million. Scruggs also operates a Nashville cash-and carry outlet.

Scruggs Inc. sells and installs such equipment as cook tops, 10-burner ranges, freezers and such "smallware" as glassware and serving utensils. Its 5,000 customers include restaurants, hospitals, nursing homes and schools.

SAVING MEDICARE FOR BABY-BOOMERS IS NOT HOPELESS—DEDICATING THE NEXT DECADE OF FEDERAL SURPLUSES FOR MEDICARE WOULD KEEP HOSPITAL TRUST FUND SOLVENT PAST 2030 WITH NO OTHER CHANGES

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 1998

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, in January, when the Congressional Budget Office (CBO)

first estimated that the budget surpluses for the next decade might total \$650 billion, many of us asked the Medicare Actuary how long that amount of money—if dedicated to the Medicare Hospital Trust Fund—would keep the Trust Fund solvent. The answer was 2020.

CBO is now estimating that the next decade's surplus will be almost \$1 trillion higher. I again asked the Office of the Chief Actuary how long that amount—if saved for Medicare and not given away on tax cuts—would fund the Hospital Trust Fund. The answer is past 2030.¹

The year 2030 is as far as the National Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare seeks or dares to plan for the future of Medicare. The year 2030 is well into the retirement of the Baby Boom generation and is a point at which the percentage of retirees in our society stabilizes.

Without making any other changes, without any restructuring of the program, without any more provider cuts, without shifting costs to beneficiaries, without raising taxes, we can keep Medicare Part A solvent just by not giving away today's temporary surpluses.

This does not mean to suggest that the Commission should not recommend any changes to the Medicare program that makes the program work better for beneficiaries or that ensures greater cost predictability and containment. By making prudent savings on the provider side and saving the surpluses, we could actually improve Medicare and its package of benefits, or we could use some of these resources to also extend the life of the Social Security. The important point is that by just not dribbling away our present surpluses, we can make our future Social Security and Medicare problems much more solvable.

As Congress debates possible ways in which to spend today's budget surpluses, it is important that the Commission recognizes and publicizes this very important message: Saving today's budget surpluses will make it infinitely easier to solve the coming Medicare crisis caused by the retirement of baby-boomers. There is, in fact, no crisis if we saved today's temporary surpluses to solve the future's certain Medicare deficits.

ISSUES FACING YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 1998

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD statements by high school students from my home state of Vermont, who were speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people today:

STATEMENT BY NAT WHITE-JOYAL REGARDING MEDICINAL MARIJUANA

Hi. My name is Nat White-Joyal. I want to talk about the legalization of marijuana for medical and homeopathic uses.

¹I asked the Office of the Chief Actuary what an additional trillion dollars in budget surpluses would save. They replied that \$1.65 trillion dedicated for Part A would save the Trust Fund to 2033. The CBO's latest estimate of surplus between 1998 and 2008 is \$1.548 trillion. Surpluses are expected for another year or two after 2008 before the Baby Boomers start retiring.

I think that it is necessary, for people who suffer from certain diseases where marijuana can be helpful to them, that it be legal. For someone to always be knocking on your door and wondering what that smell is and needing to have that to be comfortable and to sort of have—I don't want to say survival, but to have a more comfortable life.

I know that in several states, California and Arizona, that laws are either to be introduced or have been passed about legalizing medical marijuana. I am also aware of the pressure that these people who grow it and use it receive from the authorities. And I think that it is very important for these people not to have that pressure. I know from people that I know with certain diseases, hepatitis C and AIDS, that they need marijuana to improve their appetite so that they don't starve, so they can actually have some sort of energy. And I think that it needs to be passed, not only in certain states, but in the entire country.

I think it's something that is very important, and if you were to look at actual numbers, it does actually help people more than it hurts people. It is documented that marijuana does kill brain cells, but so does alcohol and cigarettes, and they are both legal, and they really don't provide any use for any other purpose except for taste and addiction.

Now, people would argue that marijuana is only used to—you know, people would only use marijuana to get stoned, but that is really not true. The people who I know who use it use it so that they can go on with their daily lives and, you know, hold down a job, not have to call in sick every other day. I feel it would be very important to have it legalized in Vermont as well, because, I mean, it is a very important crop for Vermont, whether it is legal or not.

STATEMENT BY EWING FOX AND DAMIEN WYZGA REGARDING YOUTH GROUP CENTERS

EWING FOX: This room looks a lot bigger from up here.

Many students have already mentioned the need for a safe teen environment. We think that we have a healthy alternative to some of the ideas that people have come up with so far. I think people have some good ideas, but I know a lot of kids feel that there is a stigmatism around community youth centers, and they're boring. There are too many adults, all you can do is sit on a couch and, you know, watch TV or something, and I think that Burlington's youth needs more than that to stay occupied.

We are modeling a center, a youth group center, that is called Main Street Park after a youth program that I visited in Massachusetts several years ago. It was completely run by students and volunteer parents. They had a snack bar, concessions and vending, which paid for a lot of the cost. It was housed in a public building. There were vending machines that were donated, there was pool playing, and the parents that would stay in an outer room that do the vending and admissions, there was a small admissions fee, and the majority of the center was run by the students. I think that a program similar to that could work in Burlington.

I think we can also address the issue around skateboarders in Burlington. I know I was eating lunch in City Hall park, and I was appalled by watching these skateboarders like, you know, walk up, take a jump, and get off their skate board, tiptoe down the street and walk back. I think that is so ridiculous, that some people have to be reduced to breaking a law to do something that is as simple as riding a skateboard.

I think also, for a center like this to work, we need to have a location. I know there is an empty building on lower Main Street where the old flea market was. It has been like that since I have been here, which isn't very long. And it is useless property right